



September 2, 2010

Democrats Hold 1,800 Events on Progress for Middle Class, Danger of Returning to GOP Failed Policies

This summer, Democrats in the House have held more than 1,800 events across the nation – highlighting legislative progress for middle-class Americans – and to outline the plans Congressional Republicans have to take the country back to the same failed policies that drove us to the brink of depression and cost middle-class Americans dearly.

Events emphasized the: [“Make It In America”](#) manufacturing and infrastructure jobs strategy, [protecting Social Security](#) for America’s seniors, [consumer protections](#) to help middle-class families, eight tax cuts and other legislation to [aid small businesses](#), and investments in our [troops and veterans](#).

Democratic Members of Congress have met with their constituents, held town halls, and press conferences to discuss the impact of these critical initiatives on their local communities.

House Democrats have proven that they know how to communicate with their constituents and demonstrate that their title and job description are one in the same: representative.

Each week during this district work period, the Office of the Assistant to the Speaker has been releasing a news recap on some of our newest Members’ events in their districts. Some reports from the last month are below.

“MAKE IT IN AMERICA” – MANUFACTURING AGENDA:

Times Union (New York): Tonko pushes manufacturing agenda

U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, visited X-Ray Optical Systems in East Greenbush on Tuesday to push legislation designed to ignite the U.S. manufacturing sector. Tonko said the company, which employs 75 people and exports to China and other countries equipment that detects contaminants and toxins, is the poster child for the "Make it in America" agenda that he and his colleagues in Congress are pushing this year. [\[8/18/10\]](#)

Appleton Post-Crescent (Wisconsin): Rep. Steve Kagen: Middle class is hurting

American manufacturers moving production overseas because of cheaper labor costs isn't a new trend, though it's one U.S. Rep. Steve Kagen wants to stop. "The middle class is under siege," Kagen, D-Appleton, said Tuesday, after an

address to business representatives and members of the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 400. [\[8/18/10\]](#)

Jackson City Patriot (Michigan): Rep. Schauer visits local business

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek, was in Jackson on Wednesday as he continued to kick off his re-election campaign. His "Made in America" event took place at Full Spectrum Solutions in Jackson, a company that specializes in energy-efficient lighting, and one that Schauer has spent a considerable amount of time trying to help. [\[8/15/10\]](#)

Las Vegas Sun (Nevada): Stimulus funds pay for local road projects

U.S. Rep. Dina Titus, the Democrat who represents Henderson ... conducted the press conference. "These are projects that are so important to the economy of Nevada," she said. "We're proud to brag about the fact that we've gotten such good dollars here in Southern Nevada." Nevada received about \$200 million for road projects and about \$50 million for transit projects from the stimulus act, Titus said. That created 1,600 jobs, she said. [\[8/5/10\]](#)

Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio): Officials celebrate widening of I-71

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday celebrated the Ohio Department of Transportation District 3's completion of a 10-year project to widen Interstate 71 from Cuyahoga County to Morrow County. ... U.S. Rep. John Boccieri, D-Alliance, whose 16th District includes the interchange, said Ohio received \$2 billion in federal money this year for infrastructure improvements and will receive another \$2 billion next year from the 2010 Jobs Act. Boccieri said \$930 million from the Jobs for Main Street Act is earmarked for Ohio projects. "Every \$1 billion puts 30,000 Americans to work," Boccieri said. Boccieri said America needs to invest \$500 billion in its infrastructure over the next six years. [\[8/5/10\]](#)

WSBT TV (Indiana): U.S. Infrastructure Needs Investment, Rep Says In South Bend

U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-Granger, invited Oberstar to the event Tuesday at the Studebaker National Museum. Donnelly said transportation is especially important to north-central Indiana because its location makes it a prime spot for logistics companies. "We're right in the center and it's very, very critical to our businesses and to our economic future that we have very, very solid and good transportation systems," he said. [\[8/3/10\]](#)

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY:

The Delmarva Daily Times (Maryland): Md. Rep. Kratovil celebrates Social Security anniversary

Maryland Rep. Frank Kratovil celebrated the 75th anniversary of the landmark Social Security Act by stopping at Social Security Administration offices in Salisbury and Cambridge. Kratovil, a Democrat representing the 1st District, re-affirmed his commitment to protect social security from attempts to dismantle or privatize the program. "If you have paid into Social Security your entire career, you have earned the right to the benefit of retirement security for you and your family," Kratovil said. [\[8/12/10\]](#)

The Canton Repository (Ohio): Visit to seniors celebrates anniversary of Social Security

U.S. Rep. John Boccieri, D-Alliance, will visit a retirement home Thursday morning in North Canton to talk with elderly residents and sign a pledge that he will oppose any attempts to privatize Social Security or any attempt to raise the age people are eligible for benefits, his office said. His staff says the visit is part of Boccieri's celebration of the 75th anniversary this week of the creation of the country's Social Security system. [\[8/11/10\]](#)

Foster's Daily Democrat (Maine): 75th birthday of Social Security celebrated in Dover

If Social Security was a taxpaying citizen, it would be beginning its eighth year of collecting benefits. The New Hampshire Alliance for Retired Americans held a 75th birthday party for the government program Monday at Waldron Towers, where residents heard from speakers that included U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter and Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist Steve Richardson. [\[8/17/10\]](#)

The Daily Telegram (Michigan): Rep. Mark Schauer pledges to protect Social Security benefits

Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek, pledged Saturday to fight any attempt to privatize Social Security or cut the program's benefits, including by raising the retirement age for full benefits. Schauer, who faces Republican Tim Walberg in the race for the 7th Congressional District seat, spoke to a group of about 35 people at the Adrian Senior Center on the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt signing the Social Security Act. [\[8/16/10\]](#)

The Herald Argus (Indiana): Donnelly marks Social Security's 75th year

An anniversary celebration was held Thursday at Oak Woods Manor retirement home to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Social Security program. Congressman Joe Donnelly, a Democrat who represents Indiana's 2nd district, told an assembled group that included about 25 residents of the retirement home that the event was "a birthday party for a friend of ours" who has been a "wonderful part of our lives." [\[8/14/10\]](#)

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS:

Coolidge Examiner (Arizona): Rep. Kirkpatrick announces new health care resources for Pinal County

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick visited the headquarters of a critical community health care system for Pinal County and announced new resources that will allow regional sites to expand their services to our small towns on Aug. 13. Rep. Kirkpatrick toured the Sun Life Family Health Care Center in Casa Grande, where she discussed the importance of local medical facilities with patients and medical professionals and highlighted her efforts to ensure every Arizona resident has affordable access to quality health care. [\[8/18/10\]](#)

Foster's Daily Democrat (New Hampshire): Medicare 'donut hole' checks in the mail

More than 2,700 New Hampshire residents have received \$250 checks to cover prescription drug costs thanks to the health care reform law passed earlier this year. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced another round of the tax-free checks are being mailed out this week... Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-Rochester, led an effort to pass the Affordable Care Act. "I have met countless seniors across New Hampshire who have told me that they have a difficult time buying groceries because of the cost of prescription drugs," Shea-Porter said at the time. "This is unacceptable. We must work together to close the donut hole and provide our seniors with access to the health care they need." [\[8/12/10\]](#)

The Daily Progress (Virginia): In Greene, Perriello addresses effects of health care reform

With green curtains, a care-worn waiting room and fast-growing caseload, the folks at the Greene Care Clinic, the county's free clinic, are worried about the changing landscape of healthcare. Clinic workers and a host of other service providers who deal with the area's poor and uninsured gathered there Friday to hear from U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello, D-Ivy, about what recently passed changes in healthcare mean for them. [\[8/20/10\]](#)

Mid Hudson Radio (New York): Murphy discusses consumer protections with seniors in Dutchess

Congressman Scott Murphy met with senior citizens and other community members Saturday afternoon at the Hyde Park Free Library where he discussed new credit card protections to prevent consumers from being taken advantage. They take effect as of Sunday August, 22. [\[8/22/10\]](#)

KEYC (Minnesota): Walz Talks Higher Education at Rasmussen

Congressman Tim Walz talked college costs with students today while touring Rasmussen College. The congressman got a glimpse of what courses the college has to offer before sitting down with students. During the discussion he learned how students are paying for college and what he can do to help them... whether it's with textbooks or student loans. Walz says lawmakers were able to save about 61 billion dollars over the next 10 years is by making student loans all direct lending.. [\[8/26/10\]](#)

Desoto Times Tribune (Mississippi): Childers announces education platform

Mississippi First District Congressman Travis Childers announced his education platform to educators, supporters and a handful of protesters Wednesday at the Olive Branch City Park. His five-point education platform is: Provide more Mississippi students with the education they need to secure good paying jobs in order to stay competitive in a highly skilled work force; Support public education in rural community...; Protect Mississippi teaching jobs...; Make higher education more available and affordable...; Proved alternative educational opportunities [\[8/12/10\]](#)

North Country Now (New York): Federal funds to save 262 North County teaching jobs, Owens says; Clarkson, SUNY each get more than \$1 million

Millions of dollars are going to North Country colleges including SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University, under the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Service Program. Clarkson University will receive \$1.3 million and SUNY Potsdam will receive \$1.4 million over five years, Congressman Bill Owens' office says. Meanwhile the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law by President Obama, will provide \$19 million to schools in the 23rd Congressional District, saving 262 teaching jobs, according to Owens. "This funding will allow several local institutions of higher learning to continue their contributions to the community and prepare their students for the professional world and technological workforce." said Owens of the Education Department plan. Millions of dollars are going to North Country colleges including SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University, under the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Service Program. [\[8/11/10\]](#)

[AID TO SMALL BUSINESSES:](#)**Winona Daily News (Minnesota): Walz in town to build support for small business loan fund**

The government could make it easier for small businesses to obtain loans under a bill working its way through Congress. The Small Business Jobs Credit Act would establish a \$30 billion lending fund for small banks to loan to small businesses. U.S. Rep. Tim Walz was in Winona on Saturday hoping to drum up support for the bill and other economic recovery measures. "We want to work to set an economic climate to allow for growth," Walz said Saturday during his visit to OMNI Engineering Services, a product-testing company. "We're not going to create jobs — they are." Walz met with Omni officials to tour the facility and talk about the monetary problems small businesses often face. [\[8/8/10\]](#)

Valley News Dispatch (Pennsylvania): Small business seminar held in Butler County

About 50 small business owners gathered in the Butler Country Club ballroom Tuesday morning to attend a free seminar -- hosted by U.S. Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, D-Erie -- that was aimed at giving small business owners a better understanding of how to obtain a contract with the federal government. "We need to do all that we can to see small business grow," said Dahlkemper on a taped message shown to the seminar. Dahlkemper had planned to attend the event but was called back to Washington yesterday to vote on a bill -- the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act -- was passed later in the day. [\[8/11/10\]](#)

The Star Democrat (Maryland): Kratovil tours downtown Cambridge, talks to small business owners in city
Congressman Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st, took a tour of downtown Cambridge on Wednesday afternoon and visited various small businesses along Gay, Race and High streets to discuss the economy and initiatives to encourage small business job creation. "I've been going around doing tours in areas all over the Eastern Shore talking to small businesses about what they think we should be doing to help them and to get their perspective on how things are going," said Kratovil. [\[8/12/10\]](#)

WFMZ (Pennsylvania):Murphy Touts Bill To Help Local Companies

Some Bucks County companies are a step closer to getting a boost to keep their businesses running. Congressman Patrick Murphy was at Fabric Development in Quakertown today. ... "In Bucks County specifically we have lost 15 thousand manufacturing jobs in the last 30 years," said Murphy. "And it's critical that we get and grow American manufacturing jobs."Murphy says the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center was able to help Fabric Development operate without laying off any workers. [\[8/12/10\]](#)

CBS 4 (Colorado): Polis Shares Tips For Businesses To Get Credit

There's a lot of money out there right now for businesses looking to bounce back from the recession. Rep. Jared Polis joined the CBS4 Morning News Wednesday to discuss what's available to help businesses. "One of the biggest things that I hear from small businesses and self-employed people is that credit is a lot tighter than it was a few years ago. What people need to understand is what the banks are looking for, how to best formulate your application, how to best package it so that you can attract credit because it is still out there," Polis said. [\[8/25/10\]](#)

8 News Now (Nevada): Titus to Host Small Business Workshop in Henderson

A Nevada Congressional Delegate is reaching out to small businesses this month... On Aug. 31, Congresswoman Dina Titus will host her second small business workshop. The event is aimed at providing local small businesses with the tools they need to sustain and grow during these tough economic times... The workshop will also focus on issues including securing contracts with the federal government, financing options available through the SBA and the best practices for doing business with city and state agencies. [\[8/25/10\]](#)

INVESTMENTS IN VETERANS AND TROOPS:

The Coal City Courant (Illinois): Putting America's heroes to work

As Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson points out, veterans returning home from the battlefield are among the most skilled, talented and disciplined individuals entering the workforce. Bob Durbin couldn't agree more, that's why he's taken steps to help put America's heroes to work. As a regional manager of Coal City Cob Company Inc., Durbin is proud to say that the trucking company has 10 veterans on the payroll and is looking to hire more in the coming months. For its effort to put veterans to work, Halvorson recognized Coal City Cob Company by presenting it with her first American Business Hero Award. "I am proud to honor Coal City Cob because they have gone the extra mile in hiring veterans," said the Congresswoman. "And we are proud to receive it," Durbin responded. [\[8/10/10\]](#)

Pleasanton Weekly News (California): Stand Down at Fairgrounds helps hundreds of homeless vets

Hundreds of volunteers turned out over the weekend to help 700 needy veterans at the biannual East Bay Stand Down at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Over the course of the four-day campout, the homeless veterans received social services that included everything that someone living on the streets could need -- from doctors, dental treatment and

vision services to 12-step programs. They also were given sleeping bags, clean clothes and new shoes as well as ditty bags decorated by local youths...Although no one from the Tri-Valley was there to receive services, volunteers from Pleasanton and Contra Costa County, including judges, came to help. That included Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), who was in town for the weekend before heading back to Washington for Tuesday's vote in the House of Representatives on the jobs bill the Senate passed last Wednesday. [\[8/11/10\]](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (Pennsylvania): Panel chairman in Oakland: Homeless vets a growing problem

The chairman of the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee told local veterans yesterday that the growing problem of homeless veterans needs to be addressed year-round, and periodic "stand down" events no longer are enough..."I'm sick of going to stand downs," said Rep. Bob Filner, a Pittsburgh native who represents San Diego. "We give (homeless veterans) three days, when we need to be doing it 365 days a year."... Filner, a Democrat whose family owned a Centre Avenue bakery, visited the Veterans Affairs Medical Center on University Drive in Oakland as part of a tour of veterans' facilities with U.S. Rep. Mark Critz, D-Johnstown. [\[8/26/10\]](#)

The Star Tribune (Minnesota): Walz finds calmer constituents at First District meetings this summer

Walz hosted the town hall meeting at Rochester Community and Technical College to discuss veterans' issues, although anyone from the public was welcome to attend. For an hour and a half, the Mankato Democrat spoke with about 50 constituents regarding the obstacles veterans face in getting proper benefits. [\[8/16/10\]](#)